

Bellevue. Idaho.

June 12. 1920.

Rev. J. H. Condit. D.D.

Seattle. Wash.

My Dear Brother.

Since my home coming Mrs. Nickerson and I have been thinking and praying over the question of our going to Alaska and have concluded that we are willing to go to Cordova if the ppastorate is still vacant.

Would you please write me full particulars regarding the wolk the manse and furnishings, and cost of transportation for my self and wife and household goods. Does the Board pay any part of the moving expenses?

Would it be agreeable for me to start about the first of August or the last of July?

Please wire me if it isvagreeable for us to go to Cordova.

Yours fraternally,

A. S. Nickerson



HOTEL FRYE

DAN W. BASS AND P. H. WATT
MANAGERS

SEATTLE'S NEWEST AND LARGEST HOTEL

SEATTLE

(copy)

Rev R. S. Nickerson,
Bellevue, Idaho.

Your letter June twelfth just received on my return from Alaska. Much pleased learn you willing go Cordova. Matter form requires testimonials. Kindly night letter names and addresses two men familiar your work. Address Hotel Frye, Seattle, where will be until July tenth. Expect able give definite word before going north.

James H. Condit

June 18, 1920.

Rev. J. H. Barton, D.D.,
1210 Idaho Street,
Boise, Idaho.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

It seems quite a long time since I had the privilege of writing you. I hope you are well and that you are being prospered in all of your way and work.

The occasion of my writing you at this time is to make inquiry concerning the Rev. Rescoe S. Nickerson of Bellevue, Idaho. He has been suggested to Dr. J. H. Condit, Superintendent of our work in Alaska, for one of our vacant charges there.

And with all good wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

JD/I.

JUN 29 1920

STANDARD of EFFICIENCY
for
HOME MISSION
CHURCHES

1. A survey of the field.
2. A yearly every member canvass.
3. Intelligent support of every Board.
4. Equipment for worship and a manse.
5. Training the youth for church membership.
6. Definite evangelism.
7. Regular mid-week prayer meeting.
8. Regular communion services.
9. The Presbyterian standard for Sabbath Schools.
10. Adequate group organization.
11. Systematic pastoral visitation.
12. Outstation work.
13. Definite support of our college, in students and money.

Presbyterian Home Missions

Synod of Idaho

JOSEPH H. BARTON, D. D.
SYNODICAL SUPERINTENDENT
1210 IDAHO STREET

Boise, Idaho,

Synodical Committee

D. H. HARE - - - - CALDWELL
R. J. PHIPPS, D. D., POCAHELLO
REV. A. C. EVANS - - GOODING
SECRETARY
H. C. BALDRIDGE - - - PARMA
T. H. HOPKINS - - ST. ANTHONY
H. E. POWERS - - TWIN FALLS

June 24, 1920.

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

Your letter of June 18th is at hand. To see your familiar autograph seemed like meeting an old friend.

Rev. Roscoe S. Nickerson came to us from the Congregationalist church three years ago and has been in charge of the church at Bellevue since. His work has been very satisfactory and the people of the church and town will be very sorry to have him leave. He has done much for the church and community besides the regular church work. He remodeled and practically rebuilt the manse and otherwise improved the property. He organized a boys' band and trained about forty of the boys of the town to play very creditably. I am surprised that he is considering going to Alaska but believe he will make good there.

Yours sincerely,

J. H. Barton

JUL 8 - 1920

FIRE PROOF

CABLE ADDRESS TEL FRYE

EUROPEAN



SEATTLE'S NEWEST AND LARGEST HOTEL

HOTEL FRYE

DAN W. BASS AND P. H. WATT
MANAGERS

SEATTLE July 3, 1920

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,

156 5th Avenue

New York.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

While at the Assembly it was my privilege to meet the Rev. R. S. Nickerson, Bellevue, Idaho, who expressed interest in the Alaska work and whom I directed especially toward Cordova.

I am enclosing herewith Mr. Nickerson's letter signifying his desire to go to that field together with such testimonials as have come to me in response to inquiries. I would recommend that he be appointed unless some substantial reason to the contrary should come to you.

Also please find enclosed a letter to Mr. Shriver copy of which I send for the purpose of establishing a source of information in my absence. Mr. and Mrs. Nickerson will need instruction as to clothing and other matters.

Will you send Mr. Nickerson a copy of the list of furniture in the Cordova manse which you have in your files. You sent me a copy of this but I can not here refer to the date of your communication.

Mr. Nickerson impresses me as being the type of minister we need at Cordova and I am glad that he has appeared. I sincerely wish that we had men in sight for our other vacancies.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

Copy

Dr. Dixon

July 3, 1920

Rev. R.S. Nickerson,

Bellevue

Idaho.

Dear Mr. Nickerson:

I am writing to our Dr. Dixon today, 156 5th Avenue, New York, indicating my approval of your appointment to the work at Cordova. I have no doubt but that this recommendation will be confirmed and you may count on the appointment.

I feel that I ought, just here, to say a word regarding the pre-millennial question. A few of our brethren in Alaska go to great extremes along this line. In one of the testimonials which I have, and these were cordial, is this-- "premillennialist but not fanatical". In all fairness I would not want to have you commissioned to our Alaska work if you were an extremist along this line. Our Alaska people need a well balanced ration and should know more about the atonement and the sanctification of their lives than about prophetic interpretation. But in this I am assured that you will observe the proportions in your preaching.

Inasmuch as my duties call me away from mail connections for the greater part of the summer I can not continue this correspondence. Our boat leaves the tenth.

For information regarding clothing, etc., will you write to Rev. A.G. Shriver, Cle Elum, Washington, who has just left Cordova and who was there for a number of years. I am asking Dr. Dixon to send you a list of the furniture in the manse. It is my impression that you will have to buy very little. The Board will pay your travelling expenses to the field as also a reasonable amount of freight charges. In regard to the latter remember that freight is measured on board steamer forty cubic feet to the ton and all shipments should be made as compact as possible. Weight does not enter in. After five years of service you will be entitled to three months vacation with expense to Seattle and return from home. I hope that you may be with us long enough to earn the vacation privilege. If you should leave before five years no vacation allowance would be granted.

Will you write to Dr. Dixon for farther instructions as to travel expense and other matters. I am in hopes that you can be on the field at as early a date as possible. Let me hear from you in September upon my return.

Cordially yours,

James H. Wendel

July 7, 1920.

Rev. Roscoe S. Nickerson,

Bellevue, Idaho.

My dear Mr. Nickerson:-

Dr. Condit has informed us that you and he have had a conversation about your going to Alaska. I assume that in that conversation Dr. Condit gave you all needed information concerning the vacant Alaskan fields.

I now write to inquire whether as a result of that conversation you are ready to accept of an invitation from us should the way be clear for the Board to extend it. If so, kindly give us the names of some persons to whom we may write concerning you and your work, not only at Bellevue but in your former field of labor.

And believe me to be, with best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

(Stamped envelope enclosed)

JD/I.

August 2, 1920.

Rev. R. S. Nickerson,

Bellevue, Idaho.

My dear Brother:-

This mail brings a letter from Rev. E. L. Winterberger saying that he feels it is his duty to remain at Skagway seeing that he has been there only a year. In this decision of Mr. Winterberger the Board will cordially concur.

The way, therefore, is now open for you to go to Cordova if you are still willing to take up our work at that place.

I presume that you have delayed answering my former letter until you could know definitely about Mr. Winterberger's movements. Now I am sure that the return mail will bring a letter from you. *(Letter rec'd 8/2/20)*

Trusting that we all may be guided from above *(dated 8/2/20)* in this important matter, I am, with best wishes,

Cordially yours,

JD/I.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY



NIGHT LETTERGRAM

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY (INCORPORATED) TRANSMITS AND DELIVERS THIS NIGHT LETTERGRAM SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS PRINTED ON THE BACK OF THIS BLANK. CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT.

COUNTER NUMBER

TIME FILED

CHECK

M.

INDEPENDENT COMPETITIVE PROGRESSIVE

SEND the following NIGHT LETTERGRAM, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to.

Cordova Alaska 3-563

156 Fifth Avenue, New York City,
October 26, 1920.

Rev. Roscoe S. Nickerson,

Bellevue, Idaho.

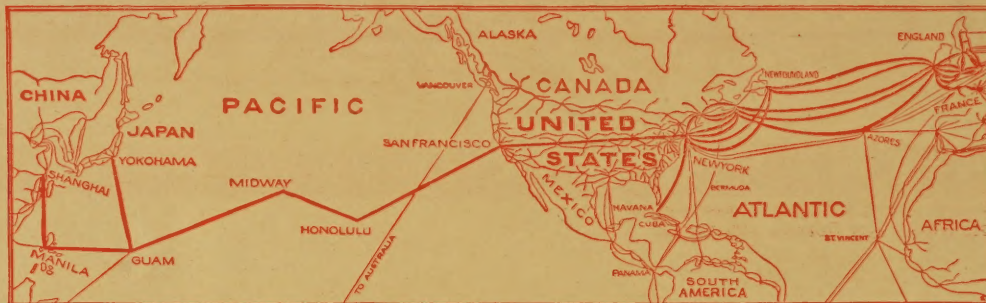
Wrote you August second saying the way was clear for you to go to Cordova. You wrote that you would be ready to go October first. Surprised to learn from Dr. Condit that you have not gone. We want you to go. Can you start at once?

JOHN DIXON

(PAID)

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY

[3 AND 4]



THE GREATEST TELEGRAPH AND CABLE SYSTEM IN THE WORLD.

EXTENDS OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE WAY AROUND THE EARTH.

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY (INCORPORATED)

TRANSMITS AND DELIVERS THE WITHIN NIGHT LETTERGRAM SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The Company will receive, not later than midnight, NIGHT LETTERGRAMS, written in plain English, to be transmitted only for delivery on the morning of the next ensuing business day, at rates still lower than its standard night message rate, as follows:

The standard day rate for a ten-word day message shall be charged for the transmission of a NIGHT LETTERGRAM, containing fifty words or less, and one-fifth of the standard day rate for a ten-word day message shall be charged for each additional ten words or less in such NIGHT LETTERGRAM.

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it REPEATED, that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one-half the unreported message rate is charged in addition. Unless otherwise indicated on its face, THIS IS AN UNREPEATED MESSAGE AND PAID FOR AS SUCH, in consideration whereof it is agreed between the sender of the message and this Company as follows:

1. The Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any UNREPEATED message, beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any REPEATED message, beyond fifty times the sum received for sending the same, UNLESS SPECIALLY VALUED; nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines; NOR FOR ERRORS IN CIPHER OR OBSCURE MESSAGES.

2. In any event the Company shall not be liable for damages for any mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery of this message, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond fifty times the REPEATED message rate, at which amount this message, if sent as a REPEATED message, is hereby valued, unless a greater value is stated in writing hereon at the time the message is offered to the Company for transmission, and an additional sum paid or agreed to be paid based on such value equal to one-tenth of one per cent. thereof.

3. The Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this message over the lines of any other Company when necessary to reach its destination.

4. Messages will be delivered free within the established free delivery limits of the terminal office. For delivery at a greater distance a special charge will be made to cover the cost of such delivery.

5. No responsibility regarding messages attaches to this Company until the same are presented and accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if any message is sent to such office by one of this Company's messengers, he acts as the agent of the sender for the purpose of delivering the message and any notice or instructions regarding it to the Company's agent in its said office.

6. This Company shall not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within thirty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

In further consideration of the reduced rate for this special "NIGHT LETTERGRAM" service, the following special terms are hereby agreed to:

(a) NIGHT LETTERGRAMS may at the option of the Telegraph Company be mailed at destination to the addressees and the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligation in such cases with respect to delivery by mailing such NIGHT LETTERGRAMS at destination, postage prepaid.

(b) NIGHT LETTERGRAMS shall be written in plain English. Code language is not permitted.

7. The above terms and conditions shall be binding upon the receiver as well as the sender of this NIGHT LETTERGRAM.

8. NO EMPLOYEE OF THIS COMPANY IS AUTHORIZED TO VARY THE FOREGOING.

CHARLES C. ADAMS, VICE-PRESIDENT.

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT.
EDWARD REYNOLDS, VICE-PREST. AND GENERAL MANAGER.

CHARLES P. BRUCH, VICE-PRESIDENT.

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L
If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.	

WESTERN UNION

TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L
If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.	

RECEIVED AT

ACBCH 21 COLLECT NL

BELDOVUE IDA 28

REV JOHN DIXON

106 156 FIFTH AVE NEWYORK NY

MESSAGE RECEIVED I START FOR CORDOVA NEXT WEEK HAVE WRITTEN DR
CONDIT AND CORDOVA CHURCH THAT I AM GOING THEN

R S NICKERSON.

1920 OCT 28 PM 11 10 1920 OCT 28 PM 9 01

November 5, 1920.

Rev. Roscoe S. Nickerson,

Cordova, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Nickerson:-

We were very much pleased to get your telegram that you were to start in a few days for Cordova. I therefore assume that you have already reached that place and have begun your work. I hope that you had a pleasant journey and no mishaps of any kind.

We shall be much interested to hear from you at your convenience as to how you found church matters. We know that some dissatisfaction had arisen with Mr. Shriver, but we trust that all that will under your wise and gentle leadership quickly disappear. Tell us all about Cordova not only church matters, but the affairs of the town as they may affect the church.

You are aware that the Board stands ready to pay the necessary traveling expenses of yourself and your family from Bellevue, Idaho, to Cordova. Make out a detailed statement of the money expended by you and send it to Mr. Varian Banks, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City, the Assistant Treasurer of the Board, and it will have his attention.

Praying that you may be guided from above and greatly prospered in your new field of labor, I am,

Cordially yours,

JD/I.

DEC 6 - 1923

Windsor Hotel

L. WALN, PROPRIETOR

CORDOVA, ALASKA

Nov 22

1920

Rev John Dixon D.D.
New York.
Dear Doctor Dixon.

Your letter of recent date reached me by last boat. I thank you for your kind greeting. The people here have given me a very cordial reception and the outlook seems good.

At the Sunday School service, the first I attended, I wanted to retire to the vestibule and when called in was greeted by the membership standing and the primary classes showered me and the aisle with flowers. Over the platform was a profusion of evergreen and the whole church was decorated and the word "Welcome" in large white letters was in the boughs over the pulpit. It was a beautiful reception.

The church and Sunday School and Aid Society seem to be in good condition. Bro. Schriener has done a good work.

here and is greatly belovd.

Please send me vouchers for salary and if you will do so, have check sent as this trip has exhausted my bank account.

As soon as my household goods come I will be able to make a correct account of the moving expenses.

From time to time I shall write you regarding this work and its needs.

Yours fraternally,
H. S. Mickelson

Granted \$608.35

5 mos. from 11/20.

December 6, 1920.

Mr. Banks:-

Rev. R. S. Nickerson has arrived on his field at Cordova, Alaska (Presbytery of Yukon) and in a letter received from ^{him} this morning he writes as follows:-

"Please send me vouchers for salary and if you will do so, have check sent as this trip has exhausted my bank account. As soon as my household goods come, I will be able to make a correct account of the moving expenses."

Will you kindly send Mr. Nickerson a check for his salary, and also, vouchers as requested by him?

Very sincerely yours,

I.

(Mr. Banks is sending check for Rev. S. Nickerson)

The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

REPORT OF MISSIONARY FOR QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31ST

Please forward this report to the Secretary promptly after the date mentioned

Name of Missionary Roscoe S. Nickerson.

P. O. Address { Cordova,
Alaska.

Name of Presbytery Yukon,

STATISTICAL REPORT

In the *Statistical Report*, under "Names of Churches and Stations," please write the name of each preaching place, following each in the spaces on the same line with information as to the quarter's work.

NAMES OF CHURCHES AND STATIONS	PREACHING SERVICES				OTHER SERVICES				MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR MISSIONARY STUDY AND PRAYER	Number of Pastoral Calls	MEMBERS RECEIVED		BAPTISM	
	SABBATH		MID-WEEK		SABBATH		MID-WEEK				On Ex.	On Cer.	Adult	Inf.
	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	SUBJECTS					
Kennicott,			1	27										
Chitina.			1	18.										
Cordova.	2	30					1	15	Christ in the O.T.		4	6		2

GENERAL REPORT

In the *General Report*, please give some details of the various departments of the work, with its trials and encouragements, and any facts or incidents that will inform the Board as to the field, or interest the Home Mission givers throughout the Church at large. **Both sides of this sheet may be used.**

This report covers the last quarter and part of the one preceeding and during the stormy part of the year.

We found the people here loyal and earnest in their endeavors to keep the work going and we are told that all of the time that they were without a pastor they continued the services each Sunday evening by supply or song service. The Sunday School has been in fair condition but so much sickness has been kept the attendance down lower than we believe should have been. There is one serious difficulty here that has been a great handicap for years and will always be a great difficulty and that is the location of the Church building. It is on a hill that is very slippery during the winter months, and here that is the major part of the year. We have secured two splendid lots centrally located but there

are two conditions regarding the gift of the lots. We must erect a building that will cost not less than \$5.000. and we have till Dec.31.1922 to complete the building. With our small membership this will be an impossibility unless we receive assistance from the Board of Church Erection or from other sources. The lots are worth about \$1.500 to \$2.000 and are just where we want them. In the center of population and within one block of the main street. There are no hills to hinder and if we can secure aid we hope to erect a building with a basement that can be used as a gymnasium as this is a WET place. I am told that the rain fall here is from 150 to 175 inches a year. That means that there is no dry play ground in Cordova.. We need this kind of a plant as an appeal to the young and those that want a place to go in the stormy season for exercise.

I believe that if we were assured \$2.500 from the Board of Church Erection that we could go to the people here and secure the balance. Now we are working under a serious handicap.

I have made two trips to Kennicott and received a cordial welcome. Also was at Chitina where the people responded kindly. We are trying to do what we can for the Indians but find it difficult under the present conditions.

The outlook is good and we are enjoying the work even if it is Baptist weather. It does not sprinkle not pour it floods here. We have started a campaign for a new Church and have almost \$1.000 raised or promised and we shall try hard to secure \$2.500. locally. Think that we shall succeed,

Pray for this land of need. Our prayer meetings are good and there is a fine spirit here.

Yours in the service of the Master.

The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

REPORT OF MISSIONARY FOR QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31ST

Please forward this report to the Secretary promptly after the date mentioned

Name of Missionary Roscoe S. Nickerson. P. O. Address { Cordova.
Yukon, { Alaska.

STATISTICAL REPORT

In the *Statistical Report*, under "Names of Churches and Stations," please write the name of each preaching place, following each in the spaces on the same line with information as to the quarter's work.

NAMES OF CHURCHES AND STATIONS	PREACHING SERVICES				OTHER SERVICES				MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR MISSIONARY STUDY AND PRAYER		Number of Pastoral Calls	MEMBERS RECEIVED		BAPTISMS	
	SABBATH		MID-WEEK		SABBATH		MID-WEEK		SUBJECTS	Ave. Att.		On Ex.	On Cer.	Adult	Infant
	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.							
Cordova,	24	20		5			22	6				1	3	1	

GENERAL REPORT

In the *General Report*, please give some details of the various departments of the work, with its trials and encouragements, and any facts or incidents that will inform the Board as to the field, or interest the Home Mission givers throughout the Church at large. **Both sides of this sheet may be used.**

Brethren.

It seem as tho three words would give an outline of the past three months and these are Money, Building and Storm.

Our new building was started in July and we were compelled to work as we could collect the money and get the material.

As considerable work had been donated we were obliged to arrange the time and work to suit the persons doing the work.

As a large part of our supplies came from Seattle we had to secure prices on estimates submitted and as these were not always agreeable we had to send two and some times three times before we got the articles and prices that were satisfactory.

I could not go up the line during the last quarter as the work and especially the finances depended on me I was bound here. I have worn overalls a large part of the time during the day and hunted money during the evenings.

The financial depression hit us here as well as in other places and we had to make up some of the subscriptions and variation in prices were not always to our advantage but we have been supported by a loyal board of Church Officers who have been doing all that they can and are still working. The expectation is that we shall go into the new church building about Easter time and have the dedication some time in the last of April or the first of May. This will accommodate our General Missionary and Rev.W.S.Marple on his way to General Assembly.

Our new building is the only new building erected in Carlevo the last year and we went to work in the face of predicted failure but we have surprised the people of Carlevo and most of the neighbors of the Carlevo as well.

We would have had the church finisher if it had not been for a succession of hard storms that stopped the work several times and then came the winter with about four to five feet of snow and continued cold. We will have the furnace in place soon and the windows and doors set by Feb. 1st and expect to plaster the auditorium in February. I have never worked under such hard and adverse circumstances in my life before.

Mrs. Nickerson held a series of cottage meetings in homes that were a benefit to the ladies who were not able to reach the Church services. She was blessed in these and I am sure that it will result in our getting a hold on several Scandinavian families.

At present we are having very cold weather but clear. The snow is deep and paths very slippery. Mrs. Nickerson fell and dislocated her left wrist and has suffered considerable but is some better now.

The outlook of Carlevo for the coming year is good and we hope for a better year than the last.

Yours fraternally,

A. S. Nickerson

February 1, 1922.

Rev. Roscoe S. Nickerson,
Cordova, Alaska.

My dear Brother:-

Your report for the quarter ending December the thirty-first gives us a partial idea at least of the very stormy time that you have had and the strenuous work which you have been doing. We are glad for your marked devotion, your optimism and the success which has crowned your labors in winning the cooperation of the people of your charge. We rejoice that the outlook for Cordova for the coming year is good and our earnest hope is that both in material and in spiritual things it may more than exceed your best expectations.

And with all good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

JD/I.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cordova, Alaska

February 1st. 1923

Rev. Wendell P. Keeler,
Yonkers, N. Y.

Dear Brother:

We are building a house of worship here in Cordova which, when completed, will strengthen greatly the cause of Christ in this needy Northland field.

Our field is large, but as is the case with most missions, our resources are few. Also, the canning of salmon, one of the chief industries of our community, has failed during the past two years, resulting in a local business depression that has seriously hampered us in financing our new Church building.

We received aid from the Board of Church Erection, but this was not sufficient, and we now need nearly \$ 1,000.00 to complete and finance the structure. We have exhausted every avenue of aid and now must ask help from those more fortunate.

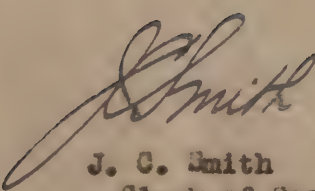
Therefore, we appeal to you, as one of the five hundred Churches to which this letter will be sent, to help us with a donation of \$ 1.00.

Please consider this carefully. The amount you send, although seemingly small, will in the aggregate enable us to complete our building, and will further Christ's work in this great Northern Territory.

Earnestly,

R. S. Nickerson

R. S. Nickerson
Pastor


J. C. Smith
Clerk of Session

A. Clinkenbeard
Treasurer

*How about this? Ought we
to send them some money?
Is the cause worthy, & do
you approve the method?
Cordially Y. P. K.*

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cordova, Alaska.

February 1st, 1923.

Rev. L. Mason Clarke, D.D.,
128 Henry Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Dear Brother,

We are building a house of worship here in Cordova which, when completed, will strengthen greatly the cause of Christ in this needy Northland mission field.

Our field is large, but as is the case with most missions, our resources are few. Also, the canning of salmon, one of the chief industries of our community, has failed during the past two years, resulting in a local business depression that has seriously hampered us in financing our new Church building.

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Please consider this carefully. The amount you send, although seemingly small, will in the aggregate, enable us to complete our building, and will further Christ's work in this great Northern Territory.

Earnestly,

R. S. Nickerson

R. S. Nickerson
Pastor

J. C. Smith
J. C. Smith
Clerk of Session

A. Clinkenbeard
Treasurer

Attached to report of
Rev. R. S. Nickerson, Cordova, Alaska

File Alaska

In addition to the enclosed report there is a matter that has come to us that we felt should be presented to you for your consideration and recommendation. When at the meeting of the Presbytery as Chairman of the Home Miss. Comm. I urged that some one be sent to the natives on St. Lawrence Island as they were isolated and without the opportunity of hearing the message of salvation. There are not less than three hundred fifty and perhaps there are four hundred on the Island. The government have placed reindeer there and it will be but a matter of a few years till the natives will be well off financially and then will be exploited as all of the natives of Alaska have been by unprincipled whites. They need the power of God, now, to direct them and save them. The brethren asked me if we were willing to go and take up this work and I replied that we would think about it. Dr. Young has just written asking the same question and after prayer and thinking seriously of the matter we have written Dr. Young that we are willing to go if Mrs. Nickerson could be appointed as teacher in a government school at the same place. It means isolation as the Island is cut off for about eight months of the year and the winters are long and cold. If it is the desire of the Board that we take up this field we would like to know as soon as possible as we shall have to make some preparation before going. We should leave here by the first of August so that we could be settled by the first of September.

This means that we would be cut off from our children and as one of them is to be married at graduation from college in 1924 we could not attend that event.

But there is a GREAT need at St. Lawrence Island and we are willing to go if arrangements can be made.

March, 3. 1923.

Dr. Young wrote me that it would cost a great deal for coal on the Island. The Government has arranged for a new line of boats down the Yukon and Tananna rivers so that coal will be delivered to

Nome for about \$14.00 a ton instead of \$50.00 as formally. This coal is being mined at the Healy River Coal Co. mine and placed on boat at Nenanna and taken to Nome at small cost. This will cut Dr. Young's estimated cost down at least 60%. and perhaps more.

A small boat leaves here for Nome and St Lawrence Island about the first of June and I have asked them regarding the transportation of our household goods and find that it can be arranged here.

We realize that this means a hard field and isolation. Even more than that at Barrow as we cannot have a force of Government teachers and a doctor near us and we shall be out of communication by mail for seven months of the year. When we go to this field we go to remain for a term of years if health permits.

The passenger steamers for Nome and that part of Alaska leave from Seattle and start on the trip about the first of June.

It would be profitable for us to visit some of the churches in California and interest them in Alaska while I am down there and if possible I would like to secure a set of brass band instruments as I have been directing and teaching bands for several years and believe that this would be a splendid appeal and entertainment during the long winter nights when the mercury goes down to -50 or more.

I shall await your action regarding our time of going with a prayer that God may use us in this land where His Word is so greatly needed.

The Presbytery have elected me as Commissioner to the Synod of Washington which meets in July and I should be pleased to attend but if in your wisdom we should go to St. Lawrence Island before this time we will forego the pleasure of Synod.

Trusting that the Lord will direct and care for all those that are in His service,

I remain,

Yours fraternally,

R. S. Nickerson.

First Presbyterian Church
Brooklyn, N. Y.

March 6th 1923
The Board of Home Missions - Secy.
15-6 Fifth Avenue
New York

Dear Sir:

Will you please read
the enclosed letter and then
write me what you know
about the matter - Also, whether
you approve -

Please return the letter.

Yours very truly
L. Mason Clarke
By E. H. H.

March 27, 1923.

Rev. R. S. Nickerson,
Cordova,
Alaska.

My dear Mr. Nickerson:

Your letter of March 3rd is just here. Dr. Young had written me in regard to your going either to St. Lawrence or to Cape Prince of Wales. I have written him that it is very uncertain what we can do for the coming year owing to the complications arising out of the reorganization and consolidation of the Boards, ordered by the General Assembly. We cannot tell how much money we can have for our work. Our own Board has directed us, in projecting our budget for next year, not to increase the expenditure of the year which closes March 31, 1923. So do not take any steps until I write you again. The new Board of National Missions meets for organization on April 10th. It is possible that we may know how to project affairs after that, although not likely. The work of the consolidation is so vast that I fear it is going to take a good while to determine the details.

Furthermore, we think here that if we have to neglect for a year or two longer either Wales or St. Lawrence Island that it ought to be the latter for the reason that we have not the plant at St. Lawrence Island we have at Wales, and the need seems to be more urgent at the latter place. Still further, when I was at St. Lawrence Island three years ago there was a good deal of discussion on the part of the government representatives there about inducing the natives to move from Gambell to the southern end of the island. It would not be good policy, we feel, for us to put the kind of plant on the island it needs until the permanent location of the village is settled. At Cape Prince of Wales, on the other hand, we have a good church building there, and a manse. Dr. Geist was there two years ago and did excellent work. We would much prefer to have a medical missionary at both St. Lawrence Island and Cape Prince of Wales, but the prospects of getting one are not good.

The conclusion in the matter is, do not make arrangements for either place until you hear from me again. And if we can send you anywhere it will be to Wales. What thinking you do on the subject, do with a view, therefore, to your going to Wales, providing we can arrange for it in our budget. I will be able to let you know in two or three weeks.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

JAM:ES

